

# Holt Mineral Waters.

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THE Great Virtues of the Mineral Waters at *HOLT* having been tried for several Years, and found so beneficial in many Distempers which have in great measure hitherto baffled all Applications from the *Re Medica*, it may not be disagreeable to the Publick to have a short Account of the several Strata of Earths and Fossiles, which may probably cause that successful Impregnation; to which is annexed, an Account of the several Diseases that have been in many Instances found curable by them, and the Method of Drinking, and other Applications of the Waters, which have been attended with Success.

IN digging the Well, after they had pass'd the upper Turf, they came to a blue Clay which held for about three Feet; then met with a yellow brittle Clay full of Veins of a strong Oker, (such as is used by Painters) which continued about two Feet. Below this, at about six Feet from the Surface, they came to a Bed of Stones of a very hard Texture, in shape like Pebbles, weighing from twenty to three hundred Weight. The Insides of these Stones were of a grey Colour, coated with a Gypsum, which run through and divided their Parts into Squares. They are found to extend all over the adjacent Field upon an horizontal Level, and exactly answer the Description of *Helmont's Ludus*, which he mentions near *Antwerp* upon the River *Scheld*, and to which he ascribes such wonderful Virtues in dissolving the Stone. From thence to the Springs, which ran about eleven Feet from the Surface, was an okerous Clay very full of a sparkling Talc, to which the Naturalists give the Name of *Selenites*, and are Crystals consisting of transparent shining brittle Flakes, some of a rhomboidal, others of a conical Figure; but all Hexædra or Columns of six Sides, that had no sensible Taste of Salt. Below the Springs the Clay is darker coloured, and interlaid with Shells of the Oyster, Escallop and Muscle-kind, with many Belemnites, Entrochi, &c. curiously shaped. About a Yard below the Springs they met with a Vein of a bituminous Pyrites, that had thin Lamina running through it, which to the Eye look'd like pure Silver, but on firing, emitted a strong blue Flame, and the metalline Parts were evaporated with the Sulphur. The whole Ground above the Wells seem'd to be a mixture of a small Proportion of Vitriol of Steel, an Allum, Oker and Sulphur; and from an accurate Mixture formed by Nature of these Ingredients, which no Art can imitate, it seems to derive those admirable Qualities with which it is indued. In Chymical Experiments, with astringent Drugs, such as Galls, Oak-leaves, Pomegranate-blossoms, &c. it sometimes tinges Red, inclining to Purple, and sometimes will not tinge at all: With volatile Alkalies, as Spirit of Salt Armoniack, or Spirit of Urine, it turns milky; with lixivious Salts, as Oyl of Tartar *per Deliq.* it rises in white Curds; but acid saline Liquors, as Spirit of Salt, Nitre, &c. cause no Alteration.

A Gallon and half of this Water evaporated *ad siccitatem*, left a Reliquium that weigh'd three Drams, one Scruple, and nineteen Grains: Some Parts of which shot into Striæ, like Needles, and others into Prisms; and from the evaporated Reliquium, with a strong Flux in a Wind-Furnace, a Grain of Silver hath been several times forced; though sometimes that Trial has been made without Success.

WERE it proper to mention Names, there is scarce a County in this Kingdom in which Satisfaction might not be had from those who have received Benefit from the Use of these Waters. In the King's-Evil, and all scrophulous and scorbutick Cases, they have effected surprizing Cures; as also in running Sores, inward Ulcers, incipient, and even bleeding Cancers. They intirely eradicate any Tendency in the Blood to the inward or outward Piles, and to that vitious Ferment in the Stomach, usually called the Heart-burning. They constantly give an Appetite, and in Weaknesses of the Seminal Vessels, which in some Cases have been of several Years continuance, they have in six Weeks intirely removed the Complaint. In scorbutick Eruptions, Cancers, or other Wounds, a Linnen constantly kept wet with the Water, and applied to the part, has been practised with great Success; and from a Pint to a Bottle drank in the Morning, and the constant Use of them at Meals, has been found a Proportion agreeable to most Constitutions. Specimens of the several Strata and Fossiles may be seen at Mr. *Henry Eyres's*, at the *Golden Tea-Cannister* in *Fleet-street* near *Temple-Bar*, who is the only Person that has the Waters in *London*, from *Grace Harding's Well* at *Holt*; and who, to be secure of their being fresh and genuine, as also for the Convenience in carrying Goods, &c. for the Use of the Company at *Holt*, has set up a Waggon, which goes from the *Bell-Savage-Inn* on *Ludgate-Hill* every other Monday to *Bath*, through *Salisbury* and *Holt*, and returns the other Mondays by the same way, which brings up also *Bath* and *Bristol* Waters, which are likewise sold at the said Place; where may be had *Spaw-Water*, *Pyrmont-Water*, all sorts of fine Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Arrack, Rum, and Brandy, Wholesale or Retail, at the lowest Prices, for ready Money.